

Excerpt from the meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen January 25, 2016

Mr. Ledoux reported that the Morrison Farm Committee voted to recommend not moving forward with the proposed sale and instead to proceed with demolition/deconstruction. Do not want private ownership that might impose on plans for Morrison Farm.

Mary Ann Ashton , Morrison Farm Committee – Committee was disturbed by prospect of sell the house and taking away important frontage and interfering with plans for the parcel, to open it up to the public. Bill Klauer, Historical Commission - As an advisory board to the Selectmen, the Historical Commission should be approached about this. This is the first that the Commission heard of it. Mr. Klauer confirmed that the house is historic.

Anne Forbes, 25 Martin Street – the emphasis on ownership seems besides the point. If the Town and its staff has come up with a way to keep the farmstead as it is, I think it is extremely commendable, especially when the Morrison Farm Committee wants to demolish it. Why would the Town want to demolish it? The farmstead is the last depression-era in tact farmstead in town. Should save it.

Dean Charter, 81 Charter Road – Agree with Morrison Farm Committee that selling frontage of parcel is a bad idea. Contradicts land preservation the Town has done. The house itself has cost a lot of money and he reluctantly agrees that it should be demolished but the land should not be sold.

Ms. Osman agreed on the need to consult with the Historical Commission. Feel like preservation of the building would cost too much for the Town. Habitat option would be best option to keep and preserve the house but Morrison Farm Committee expressed a lot of concern and if it is sold to a family we eliminate ability to access the land. Lease option would be more money to the town. Taking it down seems like best option.

Ms. Adachi said the house will need to be rebuilt if it is ever going to be useful. Need more input from Historical Commission.

Mr. Berry agreed that more boards should meet regarding this.

Ms. Osman would like to know if the house can be moved. Mr. Ledoux thinks there will be a meeting about it involving Planning.

Mr. Chang thinks the matter should be left until next Town Meeting. Getting rid of the property seems to be the most viable option.

Ms. Adachi asked about Habitat for Humanity's schedule. Mr. Ledoux said the Town would have to put out request for proposal. Habitat Regional Director likes the project but not sure about timetable. Ms. Adachi was concerned about wasting money Town already has put into it.

Bill Mullin – The house has always been a problem. Issue is selling the land that is the front door of the property.

Ms. Green said the Board will continue discussion regarding Morrison Farm. Will vote with a clear path forward.

Ms. Ashton – Want to clarify that no one has looked at what to do with the house. Have been told not to do anything. If something is to be done with the house, would like to include Morrison Farm Committee in the conversation. Would like to have a vote on not selling the land tonight. Ms. Green said the Board will need more time before deciding what happens.

Bill Mullin - It's unfair to other boards that could be involved in this to not have information ahead of time. If the Town is proposing to sell something it should be in the agenda. Ms. Green said the topic would be on a future agenda and more committees would be involved.